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United States Makes New Gains At The Expense Of The British

AMERICA WANTS WORLD DOMINATION, WITH WEAKENED
BRITAIN AND IMPOTENT GERMANY

While England is fighting for its life against the powerful blows of German imperialism the United States is proceeding rapidly to obtain as much of the spoils of war as possible, and to further prepare herself for the coming battle to "organize the world" to the needs of American imperialism. Although the war preparations are carried through with propaganda directed at Germany and Italy, at this stage England is paying for Wall Street gains.

The leasing of naval and air bases in the South Pacific and the discussions of 99 year leases on Islands in the Western Hemisphere are being wrung out of England because she is hard pressed by the Axis powers. Before the war started England considered such a proposal as ridiculous. Now she is forced to make the concession. Above all the military agreement with Canada, even though Congress must still approve it, is another blow at Britain by the American imperialists.

U. S. GAINS AGAINST BRITAIN

Contrary to the majority of the reports in the press these measures, the proposed sale of fifty ships and the talks on debt settlement, are not steps taken by United States to help England. They are measures taken for the benefit of American imperialism. True enough, the selling of war material to England helps her fight Germany. But United States does not want to see a defeated and eliminated British Empire. The present ruling group of American imperialism fears too much the growing German might; she desires a weak England under American domination with Germany bottled up in middle Europe.

The United States-Canadian military understanding has greater implications than many realize. Economically and militarily Canada now belongs to American imperialism. If England is defeated all the

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PROTEST THE STALINIST MURDER OF LEON TROTSKY

DESPITE RECENT REVISIONISM,
FORTY - FOUR YEARS SACRIFICE
FOR WORKING CLASS IS
EXAMPLE FOR MOVEMENT.

Despite any political differences anyone may have had with Leon Trotsky — and we of the RWL had (and have) differences which we considered so fundamental that unity with his organization was and still is thoroughly excluded — it must be stated that the brutal murder of a man who devoted forty-five years of his life without stint and with great personal sacrifice to the struggle for the overthrow of capitalism, is a giant blow to the working class.

The substitution of individual terror (and mass terror methods) for political discussion within the labor movement deals great damage to the prestige of the revolutionary movement as a whole. It strengthens the lying assertions of the bourgeois press that revolutionists are nothing but assassins, that they cannot tolerate differences.

For the Marxists assassination is but another form of DIRECT service to the bourgeoisie.

STALINISTS DIRECTLY GUILTY

That the Stalinists murdered the "old man" who with Lenin was the outstanding figure of the greatest revolution in history, the October Revolution, can hardly be questioned.

For years Trotsky has been haunted by the GPU. Only two months ago the Stalinist murder-band attempted a machine gun assassination. All of Trotsky's old associates have been murdered by the Stalinists in Russia under "Stalinist justice". A number of his secretaries were killed by the GPU, including recently a young comrade, Sheldon Harte. Every Stalinist paper in the world has been shouting for Trotsky's head for years. The brief published reports on questioning of the present assassin indicate that the Kremlin again was the "mastermind" behind the murder.

As we have pointed out for years the murders of Stalinism are in direct proportion to its political bankruptcy. The murder of Trotsky was a key plank in the murder program of internationally degenerate Stalinism. It can only serve to indicate that resentment against Sta-

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ONE YEAR OF THE IMPERIALIST BUTCHERY

ONLY WORKERS REVOLUTION CAN END THE WAR

One year of the second world carnage has slipped by. Future generations will look back on this one year period as a time of mass-madness, of unbelievable brutality and callousness. But yet here it is. Twenty-two years after the world wasted literally 300 billions of dollars of wealth and murdered or wounded or imprisoned 65 millions of the finest young men of the world — twenty-two years later the process is being repeated.

In one short year dozens of thousands of the youth of Europe — youth with sweethearts, with ambitions, with families, with a whole life before them — have been murdered. Dozens of cities lie in ruin — Warsaw, with its half million dead and wounded, Rotterdam with its hundred thousand killed, and hundreds of other. A dozen small countries have been conquered by the mightiest military machine on earth.

NO SECURITY UNDER CAPITALISM

All the technological developments of mankind that COULD HAVE AND SHOULD HAVE brought security from the ravages of nature — the airplane, the motor vehicle, etc. — are instead bringing a man-made holocaust which is more devastating than some of the greatest plagues in history. The life of EVERY SINGLE INDIVIDUAL on earth, especially of the proletariat and poor peasantry which bears the main burden, has been badly dislocated. There is no longer any security, there can be no future for the mass of mankind, until this man-made plague and the makers of the plague, the imperialist exploiters of all these countries are destroyed or reduced to impotence.

And when will it all end? Winston Churchill has stated that England cannot

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CONSCRIPTION AND AMERICAN DREAM OF WORLD EMPIRE

AMERICA WANTS WORLD DOMINATION, WITH WEAKENED BRITAIN AND IMPOTENT GERMANY

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Islands where United States will have leases, and Canada and Australia will be under American domination, no matter where the London government would attempt to establish itself.

At the same time it is a turning point, and extension in the Monroe Doctrine. Yesterday through the Monroe Doctrine United States told the rest of the world that Latin America belongs to United States. Now United States informs England, Germany, Japan and the world that the whole western hemisphere is its private property.

Much confusion is created because one sees and reads contradictory reports from both countries on these questions. That is because the war pressure has accelerated the ideological regroupment into two opposing camps in the exploiters who fight over the way out of their impasse. For example, in England a growing group believe that they must make terms with Hitler, save some of the Empire before United States and Japan steal most of it and the Axis take the rest. With Germany, these Englishmen say, White European "civilization" will defend itself against Communism and the "yellow peril". Another group, and at present they still retain power, believes that they must have closer relations with United States. Some advocate even Union with United States in order to save something out of the Empire. These are the forces that Hitler would drive out of England if he wins.

In the United States you have a regroupment following the same general pattern but at a slower tempo. Under any case, the perspective, and that is all it is, of the Union of United States and England would mean in all reality the domination by the American Dollar.

MORGAN - ROCKEFELLER PLANS

Outside of a few British agents in America advocating a Union, the United States exploiters that propose such are at present a small minority. They are in greater number in England. But the bloc of Morgan, Dupont, Rockefeller imperialists, who control Roosevelt and Willkie have no such plan at present. They propose to take over the best part of British trade, Islands, etc., while England has her back to the wall fighting Germany. Then they hope to place England in the position that France held in relation to the British, in the past period.

The war has brought on new forms of the Anglo-American antagonism. It has also brought the main imperialist antagonism at a juncture where a German victory would radically alter and replace the British Axis. In spite of the German victories this has not yet come to pass. But more fundamental is the antagonism between exploiter and exploited, between Communism and Capitalism (either Fascism or bourgeois democracy). In the long run this class struggle will be decisive and will have the last word on all matters on the imperialist attempt to again redivide the world.

Aug. 24, 1940.

Army Will Use Con- scripts for Offensive Not Defensive War

August 23 — President Roosevelt has today demanded of Congress that it immediately pass the draft bill; this is tantamount to forcing the closing of debate and carrying out orders from the top. Thus the great "liberal" shows he does not give a tinker's damn for the so-called "democratic" processes which he tells the workers must be defended.

The reason for this haste to carry through conscription and induct the National Guard into active service is clear. American Imperialism, faced with the growing victories of German Imperialism in Europe, and the process of the collapse of the British Empire, must move with tremendous speed to achieve a huge military force for offensive action throughout the world.

CONSCRIPTION FOR OFFENSE

Full-blown militarism with conscription of all manpower is the inevitable result of the aims of American bosses to "organize the world", to extend its control of the Hemisphere, drive further into Asia and prepare for the conflict with Germany. Not for the reasons of "defense" but for their fundamental needs of **world offensive** must debate and opposition be squelched and conscription immediately adopted.

The American bosses need a large and efficient military force to **defend** their present interests on a world scale, but such "defense" of their imperialist empire is only possible through a determined drive to extend and increase their control of decisive sections of the world. Faced with a declining British Empire, U. S. has already taken blows against it, and prepares to become its heir and assume Britain's vast empire in the East. This is a stab in the back much greater than Italy's blow at France against which Roosevelt yelled so loud.

TREMENDOUS BLOW AGAINST WORKING CLASS

These militaristic plans of the bosses also serve their interests internally against the workers of America. The plans for conscription are a big step along the road of regimentation and open military dictatorship. Under the guise of "necessary for defense", strikes are being broken, plans for a well-organized campaign to smash the 40 hour week and destroy trade union wages and conditions are being undertaken by the bosses. Roosevelt is urging the states to enact corollary legislation to deal with all forms of radicalism, which will really mean that any kind of militancy and struggle for the interests of the working class against the war machine will be considered treason.

In brief, a complete regimentation and militarization of the **entire** life and activities of the people are proceeding; all forms of opposition to the bosses and working class organization will be wiped out. All democratic rights, won at tremendous expense by workers struggle, will be destroyed. This is the "democracy" which Roosevelt bids us defend!

In reality the U.S. is becoming an open military dictatorship against the working class and a powerful military machine of imperialist **aggression** for millions of toiling colonials throughout the world.

NEGRO PRISONER BEATEN IN VIRGINIA JAIL

Richmond, Va.—If you are a prisoner — and especially if your skin happens to be dark — it is a dangerous matter to express your opinion of the arresting officer in explicit terms, even after there is a locked and barred door between you. The officer can unlock the door, assault you, choke you almost to the point of death — and get away with it. But it will cost you five dollars and costs for "cursing and abusing an officer".

This incredible incident actually happened, in the county of Hanover, which is held up to the entire state of Virginia — indeed to the entire South — as an example of almost perfect race relations. The officer, it is true, was subsequently adjudged guilty of "simple and provoked assault" and fined one dollar and costs. This after the prosecuting attorney had eloquently requested a dismissal of the case against the officer.

The prisoner, one Joe Thornton, was arrested on a charge of being drunk and disorderly, and assaulting another Negro, the arrest being made by Constable B. F. Vaughan, Jr. He was admittedly drunk at the time of arrest, and was subsequently convicted of the assault charge and sentenced to twelve months imprisonment. However, he made no resistance to the arrest, other than the usual irresponsible mouthings of the average man in his cups. The officer took his prisoner to the jail, and after the jailer had locked him in a cell, the prisoner exploded with one final violent curse at the constable.

COP BRUTALITY

The latter obtained the key from the jailer, who had already gone to another part of the jail and was not aware of what was taking place; unlocked the door, jerked his prisoner out violently and choked him until, in the words of an eye-witness "he was foaming at the mouth, and his eyes was buggin' out". The jailer, hearing the commotion, intervened in time to prevent the "simple assault" from becoming an actual murder.

In giving his decision, the Trial Justice stated that in his opinion an officer and his prisoner stood in much the same relation as any two civilians on the street, and that if the prisoner called the officer a vile name, it was considered as "the first blow" and the officer could resent it as violently as any citizen might if it were directed at him.

Neither the Justice, the prosecuting attorney nor the officer stated what would have been the result had the situation been reversed, and the officer been the one to use the epithet so violently resented, and the prisoner the one to commit the assault. In that case, the charge would have been "resisting an officer in the performance of his duty" — a rather serious crime in the state of Virginia. In this case the prisoner could scarcely have resisted the officer, who was half again his size and weight. So he exercised the inalienable right of every free born American, when put under arrest, to express his opinion of the arresting officer in any sort of language — and precipitated one of the most flagrant and vicious examples of police brutality of recent record.

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GENERAL MARSHALL SOUNDS WAR CRY OF AMERICAN BOSSES AGAINST WORKERS

Commander in Chief of the U. S. Army, Marshall, estimated that it would take 100 billions of dollars to produce a military machine to equal the German military machine.

It took the Germans 35 billions of dollars according to all reports, to build their machine under the conditions of slave-labor that exist in Germany. What General Marshall is insinuating is that unless America goes into the same form of forced labor for women in the fields, men in the road camps, 72 hour weeks in the "cause of the fatherland", etc., it would cost three dollars for one of the Germans to build a military machine.

COMPLETE MILITARIZATION

While General Marshall's figures must be taken with a big grain of salt, they nevertheless indicate the crisis of bourgeois "democracy", and the growing campaign of the bourgeoisie to organize more open dictatorial forms to press the war plans "on the cheapest basis possible". General Marshall is trying to get Uncle Sam to militarize not only a million men, but the whole proletariat and farm population. The working class must be wary that in fighting the conscription bill they do not permit the FUNDAMENTAL scheme behind the bill — a scheme on which ALL sections of the bourgeoisie agree, even the isolationists, — to be quietly pushed through.

Conscription is only ONE phase, a relatively small phase, of the vast militarization of American life. Those over 31 need not be overhappy that they will escape the draft; they may fall into a labor draft far more gruelling, far more painful. The bourgeoisie correctly — from its point of view — tries to put over its program piece by piece in order to "divide and rule". Every now and then, however, they let the cat out of the bag in such polite innuendoes as that of General Marshall. But the working class must stand united against every part of that militarization program, whether they are workers of 18, 30, or 65 years of age.

STRUGGLE FOR WORKERS' RIGHTS

Against the demand for conscription we put forth the demand for abolition of the capitalist army and for arming Workers Defense Corps under rank and file control in the factories and through factory committees and workers councils.

Against the demand for various forms of forced labor in the "interest of national unity", we put forth the demand for workers control of production for use.

Against the demand for big war budgets, we put forth the demand for all war funds to the unemployed under rank and file controlled committees of unemployed.

Against the program of murder and oppression of our "own" American capitalists, we put forth the program of life and security, the struggle for a Workers Council government in the United States.

ONE YEAR OF THE IMPERIALIST BUTCHERY

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possibly take the offensive until the winter of 1942. The British then, are planning a war that will last for at least three years. Supposing, however, that the Germans win within the next month — then what?

ONLY FIRST PHASE OF WAR

As we have pointed out elsewhere that will only be the conclusion of the FIRST PHASE of the war, the settling of the question who shall master Europe. The next phases — for the physical conquest of Asia, the main field of booty, Africa, Latin America, are still to come. The big major struggle between a German-"organized" Europe and a Western Hemisphere "organized" America will be on the order of the day — a struggle even more vicious and devastating than the present blood carnival.

Mr. Churchill has pointed with pride to the fact — as he claims — that there have been only 92,000 casualties on Britain's side in this first year of war, whereas in the first year of the first World War there were 365,000 casualties. Truly a thing to boast about! The bourgeois politicians who inveigh endlessly against the "bloodiness" of revolution, speak so brazenly and callously about a "mere" 92,000 casualties.

HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS KILLED

But Mr. Churchill's figures need a few "minor" correctives. First of all there are the thousands of civilian casualties as a result of the aerial warfare — a factor not present in the last war to anywhere near the present extent. We have already pointed to the 100,000 civilians killed in Rotterdam, according to the Dutch authorities, within 4½ days, and the hundreds of thousands of casualties in overcrowded Warsaw. Secondly there are the dozens of millions of peoples of Europe who are slowly being starved to death by the ration system — which places death above the feeding of living human beings.

Thirdly there are the inevitable epidemics — world-wide in scope — which all medical authorities agree follow every war. Fourthly, of course, there are the thousands of casualties amongst the millions of European refugees, who fled or lost their homes, the mothers who lost their babes, and the babes who lost their mothers in this mad, murderous flight from the barbarism of modern capitalism. The figures of death, wounded, and missing undoubtedly run into millions throughout Europe.

Let no one think that the war could not possibly have been avoided, or that it could not have been predicted. Lenin predicted the outbreak of a new, a second, world imperialist war, at the very end of the last war, twenty-two years ago. If the proletarian revolution is not successful in the decisive part of world economy and capitalism still remains, then war is inevitable.

NEXT ISSUE

The next issue will contain an analysis of the Republican and Democratic campaigns, including Willkie's speech and Democratic replies.

WAR INEVITABLE UNDER CAPITALISM

The failure to avert this war can be laid to two factors, one objective and the other subjective.

War is inherent in the capitalist system. Productive forces under capitalism constantly outstrip markets. This has been especially true since the last World War, with practically every inch of world territory divided amongst the big imperialists. We are thus treated periodically to the vast fantasy where idle capital and idle goods and idle manpower throttle the further expansion of the capitalists. They must either then submit to the inevitable proletarian revolution or in an attempt to avert it use military means to WREST MARKETS FROM THEIR RIVAL IMPERIALIST POWERS.

War and proletarian revolution both have a common objective base. It is precisely the failure of the proletarian revolution since 1918 that has permitted the imperialists to settle their own inner (and secondary) antagonisms. The treachery of social democracy in smashing the German revolution of 1919, the Austrian and Hungarian revolutions, the false doctrines of the centrists which permitted the ripe moments to pass in Italy, Germany, 1923, etc., and finally the whole series of international betrayals of working class interests by Stalinism which led to further defeats in China, Germany, Britain, Spain, Austria again, and demoralized the whole world proletariat — these are the subjective factors — negative factors — which made the world bloodbath possible.

ONLY WORKERS REVOLUTION CAN END WAR

As the second year of mass murder begins the working class everywhere must digest these lessons. ONLY THE PROLETARIAN REVOLUTION CAN END THIS WAR. THERE ARE NO OTHER SHORT CUTS. Only the proletarian revolution in Russia and its development in Germany ended the last World War. The same will be true of this war.

Against the wishes of the capitalists for victory the working class must oppose its own wishes and its own concrete work for the military defeat of the capitalists in their "own" country. In periods of war any act of class struggle can only serve to facilitate such a defeat.

Every youth in the whole world today must answer in his own mind the question: backward to barbarism, or forward to proletarian revolution, forward to socialism.

August 25, 1940.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

September Issue

Can France Avert Revolution?

Lenin's Position on Imperialist War

Luxemburg on the Russian Revolution

Letter of the I.C.C. Committee to the

R.W.L. 4th Convention.

Lasser Forms New Jobless Outfit To Aid FDR War Plans

DAVIE BREAKS WITH STALINISM, BUT STILL STOOGES FOR F.D.R.

Chicago, August 22—Fifty delegates representing approximately 30 states met in this city for three days from August 19th to 21st and formed the "American Security Union". A red-baiting unemployed outfit supporting the New Deal and inspired by it thus comes into being under the leadership of David Lasser, erstwhile fellow traveler of the Stalinists.

The sessions were opened up by greetings from President Roosevelt and a long speech by Lasser followed it in which he attacked all forms of radicalism and especially the Communist Party; it contained a long eulogy of the President of the United States and pledged support of all New Deal legislation and program.

STOOGE FOR WAR DEAL

In other words, little Davie who stoozed for the Stalinists while they supported Roosevelt during the "fourth period" has now turned tail as far as the C.P. is concerned and is helping Roosevelt again re-establish a base among the social-dynamite which is the unemployed on direct and work relief.

The Soviet-Nazi pact which turned the American section of the Stalinern away from support of the administration is the immediate cause of Lasser's actions. The administration is taking steps to organize the unemployed workers of the country into safe channels IN PREPARATION FOR AMERICA'S IMPENDING ENTRY INTO THE WAR. This great reservoir of men for the army and for vital factories must at all cost be under "safe" guidance. That explains why Roosevelt and his Chicago stooge, Mayor Kelly, (as well as the bourgeois press which gave great publicity to the affair) were so pre-occupied with this convention.

But for the unemployed Lasser and his organization can only be an obstacle to the struggle against war and for real security.

CLASS STRUGGLE OUTFIT NEEDED

This new outfit is no better — probably is worse — than the old and degenerate Workers (Stalinist) Alliance.

The struggle for higher relief standards, against starvation, etc., will have to be waged under the guidance of a NEW and INDEPENDENT unemployed organization that bases itself not on Roosevelt Reformism or Stalinist Reformism, but on INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION. The nucleus for such a national outfit exists in the Cleveland Association of Unemployed on Direct and Work Relief, the Seattle National Project Workers Union and a number of others.

Negro Cropper Held on Murder Charge

R.W.L. ORGANIZING NATIONAL DEFENSE

August 25, 1940. — The Revolutionary Workers League in Virginia is preparing a national labor defense to fight the case of Odell Waller, recently extradited from Columbus, Ohio, to stand trial for the murder of his landlord Oscar Davis in Virginia. Waller has accepted legal defense offered him and given one of the lawyers the information on his case.

Waller, a Negro sharecropper, moved onto the land of Davis near Gretna, Virginia, in January 1939. The agreement between Waller and Davis was that the latter would contribute supplies and tools, while the Negro would supply his labor and receive one-fourth of the product.

Despite the agreement, however, the usual chiseling of the landlord class in the South took place. Waller was forced to pay for his own fertilizer. His mother was cheated out of most of the money she was entitled to for midwifery and nursing. After planting the tobacco, the Federal government stepped in with its conservation program and Davis, realizing that it would be more profitable to dispense with this crop and get government subsidies, ordered Waller to cut out this crop entirely.

CHEATED BY LANDLORD

After some dispute Waller finally abandoned any immediate claim for the money due him on the tobacco and the money expended for fertilizer and went to Maryland to work. While he was there both his mother and wife, both of whom have worked on the Davis property, were evicted.

When Waller returned from Maryland he went over with another man and a truck to get the wheat which had been worked on by his wife, mother and himself. When he got there Davis informed him that he wasn't going to let him have a damn thing. An argument ensued and when Davis made a move to get something in his pocket, Waller, fearing for his life, shot and killed his landlord, according to the charge.

The danger of lynching was so great in the "free south" that the Negro cropper immediately fled, but was captured a few days later in Columbus, Ohio.

JIM CROW FRAME-UP

Like the case of the 9 Scottsboro Negro boys who were framed on a charge of rape they never committed, here is the case of a Negro who stands the danger of being framed for a crime of self-defense for which he is not at all guilty; a case of the usual robbery which the Southern landlord practices on his sharecroppers and tenants with impunity.

The case of this one Negro must be made a rallying cry in the struggle for equality of opportunity for the whole oppressed Negro people. The RWL has already publicized the case in a number of states and is making efforts to organize local defense committees, especially in Virginia, to fight for the freedom of Odell Waller.

Future issues of the FIGHTING WORKER will give more detailed reports on the case.

Protest The Stalinist Murder of Trotsky

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linism within Russia itself is mounting, and that all figures who are associated in the minds of the Russian masses with the great October Revolution which Stalin has been plundering must be physically exterminated if Stalinism is to survive even a short while longer.

But despite the wishes of Stalin each act of terror, and especially this one, will discredit still further the Stalinist movement, will place another nail in the coffin of Stalinism.

OUTSTANDING REVOLUTIONIST

Leon Trotsky was undoubtedly the outstanding revolutionist in the whole world ever since the death of Lenin. His polemics against Stalinism and his theoretical contributions on the question of "permanent revolution", on the question of "socialism in one country", on the strategy of revolution, on many fundamental aspects of the German revolution and many other points, are landmarks of communist theory.

We say this despite the theoretical degeneration of the Trotsky movement ever since 1934 or thereabouts. The present false doctrines of Trotsky — and his movement, which has ever been a satellite to his views — are a complete revision of his former Marxian views. Starting with the French Turn, of liquidating his groups into social democracy on the grounds that the "fate of the proletariat" depends on the "rapidity with which social-democracy breaks with the bourgeois state", his theoretical position of supporting "materially" "even rotten bourgeois democracy", his support of American Labor Parties, Blum-Cachin coalition government, his revisionist position on defeatism, a "Workers and Peasants" capitalist government, his false position on dozens of other points, stamps both Trotsky and his movement as a centrist force which must be sharply fought by the Marxists. The Trotsky movement cannot possibly be a vehicle for revolutionary activity.

BEACON OF MOVEMENT

But even though the main factor in judging an individual is the ideology he represents, another important factor that must not be underrated is his own subjective role. In that light Leon Trotsky was a beacon of the revolutionary movement. His example of years of service, constant and unending sacrifices in fighting the class enemy, will remain a lesson for many years to come for young comrades.

The death of Trotsky, right after the recent international split in his organization and the almost complete liquidation of his movement in Europe, may very well be a death blow to his "Fourth" International as well. Not a single individual remains in the Trotskyite ranks today who by the very furthest stretch of the imagination can be considered a theoretician — even a right wing revisionist theoretician like James Burnham or Bert Wolfe.

BLOW TO WORKING CLASS

But let no comrade gloat over this blow to the Trotsky movement. The blow to the working class AS A WHOLE, the weakening of the revolutionary movement AS A WHOLE in the eyes of the proletariat, outweighs these other factors. As Marxists we will do our utmost in line with our Labor Defense work to stamp out violence in the labor movement and individual terror.